

## LANGUAGE LEARNER PROFILE

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### Elisa Sibille

#### About Elisa

From Italy and works as a life coach by day and an Italian teacher by night.

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**Languages:** Fluent English and Italian, some knowledge of Russian, German and Arabic, degree in Sanskrit

#### What made you choose to study the languages you speak?

I started studying English at school when I was 11. It was the most popular choice because of its usefulness in business and for travel. I chose Russian because I found it a beautiful language, very musical, and also because I met some Russian friends and wanted to understand more about the culture. I chose Arabic purely out of curiosity. I have a degree in Sanskrit and have always loved languages that use different alphabets. I needed German to be able to read books at university, but it never really appealed and it's the one I have forgotten most promptly.

#### How have you gone about learning these languages?

Apart from English which I started at school, I generally joined evening classes at first. After having learned the basics, I found travelling to the country and/or joining summer classes there to be the most useful approach. I also used to listen to radio stations in the language and watch films in original language (films in Italy are always dubbed). I find that just learning through books/classes, although useful for an initial understanding, is never enough to master the language and become truly fluent.

#### What have you found particularly useful and motivating when learning languages?

Having friends from the country whose language I'm studying. The greatest motivator for me is wanting to communicate with people from that country. Further motivation comes from experiencing the culture at first hand by living or travelling in that country. There's nothing better than being able to communicate with people in their own language. You need to have a certain amount of curiosity for "different worlds". I've always been fascinated by people who could speak other languages and wanted to be "like them".